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>>> "Rhonda Gorman" <rgorman@ingham.org> 5/24/2005 11:50 AM >>>

When I was employed with the State Court Administrative Office, I served on the committee charged with developing required data elements to address the requirements of MCR 8.123. Because of the language of the rule, the diverse payment methods used by the trial courts, and our desire to capture all of the possible payment scenarios, our committee's task proved to be much more complex than it had initially appeared.

When I started as Deputy Court Administrator at the 30th Circuit Court in May, 2004, I felt that my background had provided me with a solid understanding of what would be needed to meet the requirements of MCR 8.123. When the reality of collecting the information in a trial court setting met up with the mechanics of rule interpretation, I gained a new perspective of the term "ignorance is bliss." I certainly wanted to escape into ignorance rather than find a way, hopefully, somewhat painlessly, to comply with rule requirements that were turning out to be very complex as we attempted to apply them to our payment structure.

While we did succeed and have a system in place that meets all of the reporting requirements contained in the original rule, I am enthused to see this amendment which would still allow the Supreme Court to monitor payments made to court appointed counsel without adding additional reporting demands to the trial courts. I am in support of the proposed amendment to MCR 8.123.

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